



## King County Water Taxi News

### The *MV Doc Maynard* is almost here

The *MV Doc Maynard*, sister ship of the *MV Sally Fox*, is scheduled to be launched into Bellingham Bay and to begin her initial testing and dock and sea trials in early August. The boat builder, All American Marine, has been working hard to get her ready to arrive in Seattle in mid-September.

All American Marine is using efficiencies learned from the *Sally Fox* construction to build the *Doc Maynard*, such as working on interior outfitting, electrical work and bottom painting prior to launch.

After the *Doc Maynard* arrives in Seattle, the King County Marine Division will familiarize the crew with the vessel, conduct route-specific training, and go through U.S. Coast Guard safety drills. Following



a dedication event, the *Doc Maynard* will be put into service on the Vashon route for up to four weeks while the *Sally Fox* returns to Bellingham to undergo warranty work. When the *Sally Fox* returns, the *Doc Maynard* will go into service on the West Seattle route, increasing the capacity and comfort of this service.

### *Sally Fox* survey results

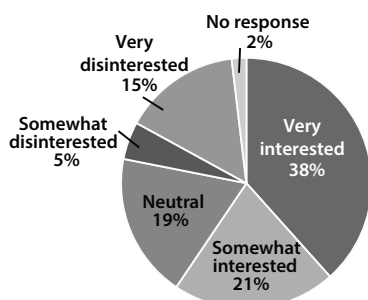
During the week of June 22, the Marine Division surveyed our Vashon riders, asking for their thoughts on our service and our new vessel, the *Sally Fox*. After two months of service with the new vessel, we wanted to give our passengers an opportunity to share their impressions of the boat and give us feedback on future opportunities.

We thank the 370 riders, representing more than

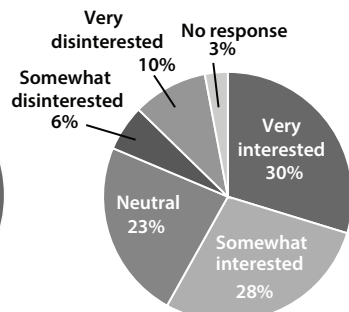
75 percent of our daily roundtrip passengers, who filled out the survey. Below is a sampling of the survey results. The full results are available on our website, [www.kingcounty.gov/watertaxi](http://www.kingcounty.gov/watertaxi)

Of course, we're always interested in your feedback. If you have additional ideas for how we can improve our service, share your thoughts via email ([watertaxi.info@kingcounty.gov](mailto:watertaxi.info@kingcounty.gov)) or our onboard comment cards.

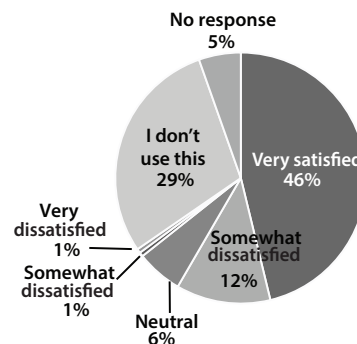
**Purchasing beer or wine onboard in the evening**



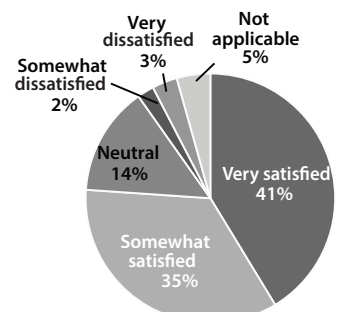
**Purchasing snacks onboard in the evening**



**Text alerts**



**The bike racks onboard the *Sally Fox***



## Water Taxi ridership continues to grow in 2015

The Water Taxi's 2015 ridership is off to a great start, with more than 20 percent growth on the West Seattle route and nearly 6 percent growth on the Vashon route over the first six months of this year compared to 2014.

While the Marine Division would like to credit this growth to our reliability and excellent customer service, we concede that having the *Sally Fox's* increased capacity on the Vashon route since early April and no Seawall project on the doorstep of our Pier 50 this year have not hurt our cause either.

June saw huge successes on both routes. On the West Seattle route, ridership grew nearly

25 percent during commute-period sailings compared to June of last year. We welcome our new commuters and hope you will invite your friends to ride. The outstanding weather helped boost weekend ridership by nearly 35 percent from last year. We're excited by this route's


**We welcome our new commuters and hope you will invite your friends to ride.**

success and hope to see continued growth after we put the *Doc Maynard* into service later this year.


On the Vashon route, the *Sally Fox* carried more than 172 passengers (the capacity of the route's previous vessel, the *Melissa Ann*) 20 times in June. Thanks to additional capacity, ridership was up 19 percent in the mornings and 14 percent in the afternoons compared to June 2014.

The entire staff of the King County Marine Division thanks all of you for your continued patronage, and we remind you to tell your friends that we have room on both routes to welcome them into our Water Taxi family!

WEST SEATTLE RIDERSHIP								
Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	%
Jan	0	0	2,733	8,037	8,067	8,732	8,827	1.1%
Feb	0	0	2,569	8,837	7,188	11,438	8,906	-22.1%
Mar	0	0	2,745	9,371	8,666	8,504	11,992	41.0%
Apr	20,361	13,068	10,335	18,468	15,894	19,160	23,370	22.0%
May	31,557	17,389	17,367	26,454	26,129	27,417	32,990	20.3%
Jun	33,864	22,093	28,202	26,633	36,076	32,484	43,494	33.89%
Jul	46,961	37,041	38,417	41,716	47,588	49,725		
Aug	43,979	32,169	41,157	44,225	45,336	53,802		
Sep	26,602	16,946	28,912	31,775	26,984	34,572		
Oct	12,872	10,318	25,270	20,530	19,332	20,752		
Nov	0	2,578	9,734	7,967	8,059	7,760		
Dec	0	2,418	8,714	6,304	7,967	8,316		
Total	216,196	154,020	216,155	250,317	257,286	282,662	129,579	

 = WSF service

VASHON RIDERSHIP								
Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	%
Jan	8,813	11,081	13,810	12,820	16,397	16,351	15,160	-7.3%
Feb	8,184	10,847	11,996	14,130	14,263	13,144	14,137	7.6%
Mar	9,459	13,448	15,083	15,330	15,654	15,637	16,790	7.4%
Apr	9,359	12,603	13,414	14,835	16,526	15,865	17,304	9.1%
May	8,338	12,003	14,087	15,604	16,735	15,561	16,003	2.8%
Jun	9,006	13,963	14,487	14,989	15,199	15,692	18,261	16.4%
Jul	9,469	13,276	13,887	15,150	17,547	16,669		
Aug	8,661	14,569	15,681	16,392	16,880	15,857		
Sep	8,826	13,923	14,082	13,992	15,197	15,542		
Oct	11,005	14,415	15,170	17,642	17,525	17,279		
Nov	9,756	12,182	13,517	14,572	13,441	13,125		
Dec	10,098	11,310	12,405	12,514	12,460	13,735		
Total	110,974	153,620	167,619	177,970	187,824	184,457	97,655	

 = Argosy service

WATER TAXI ANNUAL RIDERSHIP				
Year	Vashon	West Seattle	System	Percent +/- over previous year
2005	175,269	106,913	282,182	
2006	131,996	122,650	254,646	-9.76%
2007	125,033	161,331	286,364	12.46%
2008	121,169	182,904	304,073	6.18%
2009	110,703	216,196	326,899	7.51%
2010	153,620	154,020	307,640	-5.89%
2011	167,619	216,155	383,774	24.75%
2012	177,970	250,317	428,287	11.60%
2013	187,824	257,286	445,110	3.93%
2014	184,457	282,662	467,119	4.94%
2015	97,655	129,579	227,234	13.60%

Through June 2015 (YTD for June 2014 was 199,985)

## Confronting climate change on the Water Taxi

By Alex Adams



*Alex has worked for the Marine Division for five years and can usually be found on the Vashon Island route, taking fares and tying up the boat as a deckhand or serving as a relief captain in the wheelhouse. Now Alex is on dry land, working on special*

*projects in the Department of Transportation Director's Office. He is helping the Water Taxi take measurable steps to confront climate change, focusing on creative ways to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from our boats and increase our operation's efficiency while reducing our environmental footprint. He also is working on ways to ensure that the Water Taxi considers equity and equal opportunity as we strive to be part of the best-run government in the nation.*

As both passengers and crew get to know the first of our two new vessels, we thought you would be interested in learning a bit more about some amazing features that may not be as obvious as the spacious and comfortable cabin or the increased passenger capacity. There's more to the *Sally Fox* and the *Doc Maynard* than meets the eye! The vessels' designers at Teknicraft in New Zealand and the shipwrights at All American Marine in Bellingham

shrinking winter snowpack to sea level rise. These changes will undoubtedly affect our economy, the environment, public health and safety, and the quality of life in King County. Through its 2015 Strategic Climate Action

**There's more  
to the Sally Fox  
and the Doc  
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meets the eye!**

Plan, King County has mapped out an ambitious path to a clean energy future, and we're doing our part on the water with our vessels.

Take a closer look next time you see the *Sally Fox* or the *Doc Maynard*. Every aspect of these vessels is designed with efficiency and the

environment in mind. From the top passenger cabin to the bottom of the hull, lightweight, durable aluminum is used. Aluminum is an ideal material for strong, lightweight hulls and is recyclable when the vessel reaches the end of her life.



The precise shape of the hulls is the product of a computational fluid dynamics analysis designed to create a low-wake and highly fuel-efficient profile.

Every seat, window, light, heater, and bathroom is designed to strike a balance between comfort, energy and resource conservation, and weight. We've even increased the number of bicycles we can carry!

Weight, in particular, is such an important consideration because, despite having larger vessels, our goals haven't changed. We still strive to provide safe, reliable, efficient service, and now we can do our part to take decisive action to confront climate change in King County.

worked with King County to design and build a new vessel that not only addresses the County's strategic climate change goals, but also sets us on a course to be a leader in green marine transportation in Puget Sound.

Here in King County, we're already experiencing a changing climate — from hotter, dryer summers to

One of the most notable environmental improvements to this new generation of passenger-only ferries is hidden below deck. *Sally Fox* and *Doc Maynard* are powered by two Cummins Tier-3 diesel engines. Tier-3 is an EPA classification and denotes the most efficient diesel engine possible for use in these vessels. That means less fuel

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## The King County Marine Division—behind the scenes, current projects

In response to our Vashon Water Taxi survey, many riders said they wanted to know more about the behind-the-scenes work of the King County Marine Division that oversees the Water Taxi service.

Our administrative group consists of only seven very committed staff members who work hard to support the service and crew every day. Our team includes a Division Director, Administrator, Marine Operations Manager, Inventory Specialist, Finance and Administration Manager, Business and Finance Officer, and a Shoreside Operations and Customer Service Manager. We all wear multiple hats and are involved in all of the financial and operational aspects of the division, whether we're composing financial reports, overseeing projects, or responding to nearly 300 customer contacts a year.

We get a lot of help from other King County divisions and outside consultants. Together we strive to provide great service behind the scenes that we hope rivals the high level of service you receive on the boats.

Some of our current projects:

**Modifications at Seacrest Dock** – When the *Sally Fox* arrived, we tested her at Seacrest Dock to identify

modifications needed for the float. Work is underway on these changes in anticipation of the *Doc Maynard's* arrival.

**Vashon terminal weather cover** – We put out a second bid on this project as the first bid, in March, resulted in two applicants that were deemed unresponsive. The second round of bids is now closed and results are being evaluated.

**Water Taxi service expansion options** – King County has asked the Marine Division and our consultant, KPFF Engineering, to look at future route opportunities on both Lake Washington and Puget Sound. A report of viable options is expected by year's end.

**Preparing an operating budget request** – Current operations funding for the Water Taxi will be depleted at the end of 2016. The Marine Division is preparing a budget package to submit by mid-2016 to support continuation of current service.

**Construction of the *Doc Maynard*** – The project manager loaned to us by the King County Road Services Division to construct the *Sally Fox* continues to assist us with completion of the *Doc Maynard*. He played a significant role in minimizing changes when the *Sally Fox* went into service.

*continued from page 3*

### Confronting climate change

burned, cleaner exhaust produced, and less oil used.

Upon the delivery of the *Sally Fox*, we also transitioned to B10 biodiesel, a mix of 90 percent diesel fuel and 10 percent refined cooking oil. Our biodiesel is 100 percent recycled. It is refined locally, which means less greenhouse gasses are produced transporting the biodiesel to the vessel.

By using 10 percent biodiesel, we're reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. The cooking oil we burn contains yellow grease that's collected from regional restaurants and reprocessed into high-quality fuel. That smell of french fries might not be your imagination!

These are just a few of our initiatives—stay tuned for more. By choosing to ride the Water Taxi, you're helping reduce congestion on our roads and limiting greenhouse-gas emissions. And you might even spot an Orca whale!

For more information on King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan visit [www.kingcounty.gov/climate](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate)



**Find more news at**  
**[www.kingcounty.gov/watertaxi](http://www.kingcounty.gov/watertaxi)**

We welcome comments from the public. Send an e-mail to [watertaxi.info@kingcounty.gov](mailto:watertaxi.info@kingcounty.gov) or leave a message at 206-477-3979.

Alternative formats available  
206-477-3832 (TTY Relay: 711)